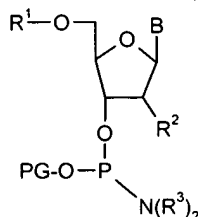


IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended): A process for the purification of an organic solution of a nucleoside phosphoramidite or nucleoside H-phosphonate oligonucleotide synthon and lower molecular weight impurities, which comprises subjecting ~~[[an]]~~ said organic solution ~~comprising an oligonucleotide synthon and lower molecular weight impurities~~ to nanofiltration whereby the ratio of ~~an oligonucleotide synthon~~ to lower molecular weight impurities in the solution is increased after the nanofiltration.

2. (cancelled): ~~A process according to claim 1, wherein the oligonucleotide synthon is a nucleoside phosphoramidite or nucleoside H-phosphonate.~~

3. (currently amended): A process according to claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, wherein the oligonucleotide synthon is a compound of formula (1):



wherein R¹ is a protecting group, B is a nucleoside base, R² represents -H, -F, -OR⁴, -NR⁵R⁶, -SR⁷, or ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ an aliphatic group, each R³ independently is a C₁₋₆ alkyl group, PG is a phosphorus protecting group, R⁴ represents -H, ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ an aliphatic group, ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ an aryl group, ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ an aralkyl, an alcohol protecting group, or - (CH₂)_q-NR⁹R¹⁰, R⁵ and R⁶ are each, independently, -H, ~~an a-substituted or unsubstituted~~ an aliphatic group, or an amine protecting group, or R⁵ and R⁶ taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached are a heterocyclyl group, R⁷ represents -H, ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ an aliphatic group, or a thiol protecting group, R⁹ and R¹⁰ are each, independently, -H, ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ an aryl group, ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ an heteroaryl group, ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ an aliphatic group, ~~an a-substituted or unsubstituted~~ an aralkyl group, a ~~substituted or unsubstituted~~ an heteroaralkyl group or an amine protecting group, or R⁹ and R¹⁰ taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a heterocyclyl group; and q is an integer from 1 to about 6.

4. (original): A process according to claim 3, wherein PG is a betacyanoethyl group, and each R³ is an isopropyl group.

5. (previously presented): A process according to claim 1, wherein a polyimide nanofiltration membrane is employed.
6. (previously presented): A process according to claim 1, wherein a nanofiltration membrane having a molecular weight cut off of 400 is employed.
7. (previously presented): A process according to claim 1, wherein the process is operated in cross flow configuration.
8. (previously presented): A process according to claim 1, wherein the process employs a pressure of from 15 to 35 bar.
9. (previously presented): A process according to claim 1, wherein fresh organic solvent corresponding to the volume passed through the nanofiltration membrane is added into the retained synthon solution.
10. (previously presented): A process according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein a polyimide nanofiltration membrane having a molecular weight cut-off of 400 is employed.
11. (previously presented): A process according to claim 10, wherein the process is operated in cross flow configuration.
12. (previously presented): A process according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein a polyimide nanofiltration membrane is employed and fresh organic solvent corresponding to the volume passed through the nanofiltration membrane is added into the retained synthon solution.
13. (previously presented): A process according to claim 12, wherein a polyimide nanofiltration membrane having a molecular weight cut-off of 400 is employed.
14. (previously presented): A process according to claim 13, wherein the process is operated in cross flow configuration.